

Kuwait has highest reserves in Gulf

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait for the first time has overtaken Saudi Arabia as the Gulf Arab state with the highest state reserves, a bank study released on Monday said. The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) said the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held reserves totalling \$204.7 billion at the end of 1986. The reserves surged with oil revenue in the 1970s but have been recently drawn down in recent years to finance state budget deficits that emerged when oil revenues fell. NBK said Kuwait's reserves stood at \$35 billion at the end of last year followed by Saudi Arabia (\$30 billion), the United Arab Emirates (\$22 billion), Qatar (\$12 billion), Oman (\$3.1 billion) and Bahrain (\$1.6 billion). Most of the GCC reserves are in the United States and Western Europe. The study estimated Kuwait's reserves, after deducting amounts used to finance the budget deficit, at \$89.7 billion at the end of last June. It projected they would reach \$91 billion by the end of the fiscal year ending June 1988. NBK predicted there would be no or slightly negative economic growth this year in the GCC despite an upturn in oil revenues, the main source of income. It estimated GCC oil revenues would reach \$37 billion from \$35 billion last year because of higher world oil prices.

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Regent visits army units

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, visited units of the Third Armoured Division of the Armed Forces during exercises they conducted on Monday. The Regent met with the commander of the division and senior officers as well as soldiers of the unit. The division commander briefed the Regent on the various phases of the exercises and the level of progress of training.

Kuranari due here on Sept. 20

AMMAN (R) — Japan's Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari will discuss the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict when he visits Jordan on Sept. 20, an embassy source said on Monday. He said Mr. Kuranari would stop in Baghdad and Amman on his way to New York for the U.N. General Assembly before going on to several Latin American countries. Mr. Kuranari hoped to meet Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, but might not see Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri due in Tunis the same day to attend an Arab League meeting to discuss Iran's response to U.N. efforts to end the Gulf war.

Jordan and Iraq to sign Islamic accord

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat left Amman for Baghdad on Monday on a several-day official visit to Iraq. During his visit, Dr. Khayyat is expected to sign with his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Fadil Abbas an agreement on Islamic preaching and regulations ruling Waqf management. The agreement will also deal with exchanging information and research on Islamic heritage.

Jordan to host Mediterranean talks on medical education

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will host a regional conference on medical education before the end of 1987 with the participation of 23 Mediterranean countries. Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, following a meeting on Monday of preparatory and executive committees of the conference, said that he agreed on holding the conference in Jordan during his tenure as chairman of last year's meetings of the World Health Organisation (WHO) General Assembly upon a request from the chairman of the International Union for Health Education.

Klibi welcomes Iraq-Libya move

TUNIS (AP) — The Arab League on Monday welcomed with "great satisfaction" the move towards improving relations between Iraq and Libya, which has supported Iran in the seven-year Gulf war. Secretary-General Chadli Klibi said in a statement that the Arab League welcomed the "determination" of the two countries to "develop their relations in all domains, in a framework of mutual respect, on the base of Arab solidarity and founded on the League Charter." Iraq and Libya issued a statement last week saying they intend to improve relations.

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Iraq urges U.N. to adopt punitive action against Iran

Aziz reaffirms Baghdad's acceptance of 598 and calls on Perez de Cuellar to enforce it

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq urged U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Monday to take punitive measures against Iran because it has failed to respond to a July 20 Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Gulf war.

Both sides accused each other of starting new fighting to wreck Mr. Perez de Cuellar's crucial peace mission. But there was no independent confirmation of any significant action.

The Iraqi demand for sanctions against Iran was made by Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz when he met Mr. Perez de Cuellar at the Foreign Ministry.

It was the U.N. chief's first session with Iraqi leaders since he flew in from Tehran Sunday night after two days of talks.

He was scheduled to meet President Saddam Hussein later Monday and return to New York Tuesday.

Mr. Aziz asked Mr. Perez de Cuellar to seek sanctions against Iran "for its refusal to yield to the international community's will in calling for a ceasefire in the seven-year-old conflict."

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Shipping traffic surges during lull in 'tanker war'

BAHRAYN (R) — Shipping surged through the narrow mouth of the Gulf on Monday, taking advantage of a lull in air and sea attacks brought on by a U.N. peace mission to Iran and Iraq.

Shipping sources said the number of vessels entering and leaving the waterway has risen steadily since U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in the region on Friday.

"There's been a real rush of activity today," said one source. "Shipowners seem to be taking advantage of the lull in attacks."

Several big convoys, including one inbound and one outbound group of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers, crossed ports near the entrance to the Gulf on Monday.

"I would estimate that traffic has increased by about 60 per cent during the past two days, because of the lull in the war," another shipping source said.

"Presumably the Iranians want him (Mr. Perez de Cuellar) to know they are not aggressive, so they are not attacking ships."

The last confirmed attack on shipping was on Thursday, when Iranian gunboats ambushed the Cypriot supertanker Haven as it sailed fully loaded in the southern Gulf.

Two Iranian warships tracked the convoy two miles away, the sources said.

Belgium announces decision to send anti-mine force to Gulf

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Belgium will dispatch minesweepers to the Gulf to help the United States and other Western nations patrol the waterway, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said Monday.

Mr. Martens made the announcement at the end of a special meeting of his cabinet. He said he was arranging a news conference to provide details of the decision.

Mr. Martens said Belgium would send two minesweepers and one support vessel to help ensure free navigation. He said they would work in close cooperation with other European allies.

Mr. Martens told journalists that the force would closely cooperate with the British fleet in the area which would protect the Belgian vessels.

He said the Belgian ships would begin the five-week voyage within the next eight days. Their orders were for a 4½ month mission, but this could be cut short if necessary, he added.

Earlier this month that the minister would visit Moscow, London and Paris to urge permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to consider sanctions against Iran. He has already visited Moscow.

Syrian efforts to free British hostages said to depend on 'diplomatic action from London'

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syria has indicated that it is capable of helping secure freedom for British nationals kidnapped in Lebanon and that it will exert efforts to free the hostages if there was willingness on the part of London to improve its ties with Damascus, according to a Church of England envoy who visited the Syrian capital over the weekend.

Iran said 17 people were killed or wounded in Iraqi attacks on Abadan, Khorramshahr and Sar-

lasting peace," Baghdad Radio said in a report on the talks.

The U.N. secretary general, who first held two days of talks in Iran, is trying to get the combatants to accept the Security Council's July 20th Resolution 598, which ordered a ceasefire in the war.

He declined to comment on his talks when he arrived on Sunday night and was whisked around Baghdad on Monday out of the reach of journalists and film crews tracking his mission.

Baghdad Radio said Mr. Aziz reiterated Baghdad's "firm and clear stand of welcoming the resolution... and the necessity to implement it in full."

Mr. Aziz stressed that the resolution "cannot be split into phases and noted that Iran had rejected the decision since it was

EC assails Israel for building settlements in occupied lands

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers on Monday criticised Israel for resuming its policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

"They (the ministers) consider that every new and existing settlement is in violation of international law and call upon the Israeli government to put an end to the illegal policy of settlements in the occupied territories," the statement read.

Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Elleman-Jensen told a news conference the EC's first-ever declaration on Israel's settlement drive was prompted by the recent inauguration of a new site on the West Bank.

He said the cornerstone of the new settlement had been laid by

Israel's minister of housing in what was clearly official approval of the policy.

The 12 member states believed new settlements, along with an increase in the number of settlers in existing settlements, risked jeopardising prospects for peace in the region, the statement said.

"Progress towards a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region depends on the creation of a climate of confidence between the parties to the conflict," it said.

The statement was adopted at a routine meeting of EC foreign ministers.

The strongly worded EC declaration followed the Sept. 7 groundbreaking at the Avnei Hefetz settlement on the West Bank by Israeli Housing Minister

David Levy.

Mr. Elleman-Jensen, who chaired the EC meeting, said the community has been considering an open condemnation of Israel's settlement policy for some time.

No Moroccan entry to EC

In other decisions taken during Monday's meeting, the EC foreign ministers offered to forge closer links with Morocco but made clear its bid to join the bloc was doomed.

During informal discussions over lunch, the ministers also studied events in the Gulf — especially the peace mission by U.N. Secretary General Javier

(Continued on page 3)

Al Shiraa publisher-editor shot and wounded by gunman in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Hassan Sabra, the Lebanese journalist who first disclosed the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, was shot and wounded by a motorcycle gunman here Monday and doctors said he may have been blinded by the gunfire.

However, Canon Paul Oustreicher, who made a brief stop-over in Amman on Monday, quoted Lieutenant-General Tlas as saying, helping the release of Mr. Waite and other British hostages was not "a priority" for Syria yet.

"The Syrians stressed that helping in freeing the West German hostage (Rudolph Cordes) was their immediate priority," he said.

"He is in stable condition but might lose his sight from the head wound," said one doctor at the American University Hospital as Mr. Sabra emerged from three hours of surgery to remove the bullet.

Mr. Sabra made many enemies through his reporting in Al Shiraa on Iranian politics and the foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

He was heading to the magazine's office in west Beirut's Mosseibeh district in his chauffeur.

Hassan Sabra

driver white Mercedes-Benz when the assailant, riding pillion on a motorcycle, opened fire at 10 a.m.

Police said Mr. Sabra was in the back seat with his 12-year-old daughter Nissrin, who suffered a minor injury from a bullet that greased the left side of her chest.

Police said the body of an unidentified man bearing bullet wounds was taken to the American University Hospital two hours after the attack on Mr. Sabra, raising speculation one of the two motorcycle assailants may have been killed.

"We are trying to establish the identity of the dead man in order to determine whether he was involved in the assassination attempt," said a police spokesman.

Mr. Sabra's magazine became famous last October when it broke news of former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. presents new arms treaty draft on eve of Shevardnadze talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States offered on Monday what it said were concessions to the Soviet Union intended to hasten conclusion of an intermediate nuclear weapons (INF) treaty.

The latest U.S. draft proposals, presented in Geneva and confirmed in Washington, came on the eve of talks here between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze aimed at paving the way for an arms control agreement.

But they made no reference to the future of nuclear warheads on the medium- and shorter-range missiles to be destroyed under a treaty — an issue Moscow has signalled is crucial to break the present impasse.

The proposals were presented at the Geneva arms negotiations on Monday based on a "double-zero option" calling for the global elimination of both sides' intermediate nuclear missiles.

They were confirmed on the White House where a statement from President Ronald Reagan echoed suggestions from Mr. Shultz.

Statements sent to international news agencies in Beirut, purporting to be from the kidnappers, accused Mr. Waite of being an American agent.

According to Canon Oustreicher, who is a close friend of the kidnapped negotiator, the Syrians "have made it clear that they regard Mr. Waite as an innocent person who, with good motives, became too closely associated with the American establishment."

"They (the Syrians) made it very plain that they did not consider him a spy or an agent," he added.

Canon Oustreicher said his meeting with Gen. Tlas was "unexpected and unscheduled" and arranged through "Syrian friends."

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Weinberger that non-nuclear armed rocketry should be retained.

U.S. delegation sources in Geneva said the new proposals also moved towards the Soviet view by agreeing that all missiles should be destroyed at agreed sites and under joint supervision.

The sources said the U.S. position now offered more flexibility on the timetable for destroying the missiles — apparently meaning that Washington was now ready to dismantle some of its own rockets at the first stage of the process.

But there was silence in Geneva and Washington on the warheads issue. Moscow says they must be destroyed under the treaty while the U.S. has argued that the accord should only cover missiles and launchers.

Although the Geneva negotiations would have to thrash out the fine print of any agreement, U.S. officials hope that Mr. Shevardnadze's talks with Mr. Reagan and Mr. Shultz will provide crucial impetus to completing the accord.

(Continued on page 3)

Shamir retains aide involved in arms scandal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has delayed plans to fire his aide Amiram Nir whom U.S. investigators have sought to question concerning weapons sales to Iran, a spokesman said Monday.

Mr. Nir is one of four officials slated for dismissal by a power-sharing agreement between Mr. Shamir and his governing partner Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Three of the officials have been removed from their posts, two of them in the last week, Mr. Shamir's spokesman Yossi Ahimeir said.

"But no decision has been made concerning Nir," Ahimeir added in a telephone interview.

Israel Radio reported Friday that Mr. Shamir planned to fire Mr. Nir with the other officials.

At the time, Ahimeir refused to comment on the report.

A government official, who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Shamir in-

American arms to Iran and any prosecutions arising from the affair in Washington.

Ahimeir declined comment on reports that U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Webster was in Israel and had urged Mr. Shamir to remove Mr. Nir, a close associate of former National Security Council aide Oliver North.

A U.S. embassy spokeswoman would not confirm or deny that Mr. Webster was in the country.

Mr. Nir, a former journalist, is the only major figure in the Iran arms affair not to have spoken in public about his role.

The other Israeli dismissed by Mr. Shamir is Yousef Ginat, an advisor on Arab affairs who left office last year, Nitza Shapira-Libai, the advisor on women's affairs who leaves office next month, and Israel Peleg, director of the press office who leaves office this week.

GCC to press for Egypt's return to Arab League

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's government-owned press said on Monday Gulf Arab foreign ministers would press for the return of Egypt to the Arab League at its next summit.

The newspapers said the ministers agreed their countries would resume diplomatic ties with Cairo if it was not permitted to return to full membership of the League.

They met in Jeddah on Saturday and Sunday at a conference of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Egypt was suspended from the League following the Camp David accords leading to its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. Most Arab States broke diplomatic links with Cairo as well.

Five GCC states — Saudi Ara-

bia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates — cut diplomatic ties with Egypt but Oman has maintained its links with Cairo.

The newspaper reports said the GCC favoured the return of Egypt to the League in recognition of the role taken by Cairo in "serving Arab interests."

Egypt is a strong supporter of Iraq in the Gulf war and the GCC states also generally support Baghdad.

The reports said if Cairo's re-entry to the League were to

opposed, the GCC "has agreed to resume normal relations with Egypt."

Arab states such as Syria — a supporter of Iran in the war — have opposed Egypt's return to the League in the past.

The issue of Cairo's membership has been a stumbling block to the convening of an Arab summit. The last full meeting was held in 1982.

As the GCC ministers were ending their meeting on Sunday, diplomats reported Syrian Vice President Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Jeddah on a surprise visit.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak visited Oman on Friday for talks with Sultan Qaboos on developments in the Gulf region.

Death penalty asked in Tunisian bomb trial

TUNIS. Tunisia (AP) — State prosecutor Mohammad Zayani on Monday asked for the death penalty against 90 Muslim fundamentalists accused of plotting to overthrow the Tunisian government.

The defendants are charged with procuring arms, carrying out attacks on public forces, inciting to murder and inciting the Tunisian public to sedition.

Six are charged in connection with a series of bombings in August at Tunisian resort hotels

in which 13 people were injured, most of them European tourists. Forty of the accused are being tried in absentia.

In his closing arguments before the court, Mr. Zayani said: "The facts and arguments prove that the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI) prepared for a long time and planned violent actions to attack the state and overthrow the regime."

Among those on trial is Rached Ghannouchi, president of the Islamic Tendency Move-

French ships hunt for mines in Sea of Oman

PARIS (R) — A French minesweeping force has reached the Sea of Oman and started hunting for mines in international waters near the mouth of the Gulf.

Defence Minister Andre Giraud said on Monday.

Mr. Giraud said the French vessels began operating on Friday some 30 miles off Fujairah, part of the United Arab Emirates.

He said the French Navy was the first of several Western fleets to start clearing the sea lanes, where floating mines were discovered last month.

"They are there to protect international interests. Everyone wants the international waters in which they are working and which are used by tankers to be cleared of mines," the minister said on French radio.

On Aug. 17 France sent the minehunters Garigliano, Cantho and Vinh-Long, with a support vessel to clear mines out of the Gulf as the Iran-Iraq war threatened merchant shipping.

The United States is using minesweeping helicopters to clear the path in front of convoys of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers under escort in the Gulf by the American navy.

The Pentagon is also sending six minesweepers to the Gulf to join about 34 U.S. warships already in the area.

TEL AVIV (AP) — Parliament on Monday rejected a motion to establish a commission of inquiry into the role of former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Israeli military correspondents Zeev Schiff and Ehud Yaari wrote in their book the Lebanon War that Sharon misled the cabinet about his intentions to drive the Israeli army all the way to Beirut instead of stopping 40 kilometres into Lebanon.

"I personally was in a unit 60 kilometres north of the Israeli border on the first day of the war," said Cohen, a reserve colonel in a paratrooper unit. "We were under orders to continue north to Beirut."

During his parliament speech, Cohen waved a copy of what he said was a note written by Maj. Yonathan Harnik, commander of the Golani Brigade, to one of his men.

"Harnik asked his aide to bring him maps of Beirut," said Cohen. "That was on the first day of the war."

The Lebanon war was the most unpopular in Israel's history and divided the nation. More than 650 Israelis were killed and several thousand wounded between June 1982 and June 1985 when Israel withdrew the bulk of its troops from Lebanon.

Sharon was forced to resign as defence minister after he was

reprimanded by a commission of inquiry for failing to prevent the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians by Israeli-allied Falangist militiamen at refugee camps outside Beirut in September 1982.

The sources said Sharon lied to political leaders and army commanders about the war's aims. Sharon's speech was seen as an attempt to clear his record and boost his political ambitions.

Legislator Ran Cohen of the left-wing Citizens Rights Movement proposed the investigation, saying Sharon's version of events should not go unchallenged.

"Sharon is a liar," said Cohen.

The 120-member Knesset voted 27-13 to reject the motion. Sharon, who heads the Trade Ministry, was among the 80 absent legislators.

Harnik was killed a day later during an assault on Beaufort Castle in southern Lebanon.

Sharon said during his Aug. 11 speech at Tel Aviv University that political and military leaders were aware of the possibility that Israel might have to go to Beirut to drive out Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) commandos.

In the past two years, Israel has increased the use of controversial measures such as deportation and detention without trial to stifle resistance in the area.

The Jerusalem Post on Monday quoted informed sources as linking his departure to disagreements among senior officials on policy towards the Palestinian population in the occupied territories.

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Dajani supports goals of security conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani said Monday that the 12th Conference of Arab Police Chiefs opening in Amman on Tuesday constitutes yet another step on the part of Arab countries to strengthen their defences against crime and ensure security for their citizens.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the eve of the meeting, which will be attended by delegations from 18 Arab countries, the minister said that the conference offers an opportunity for participants to coordinate efforts and exchange expertise and experience.

The Arab ministers of interior have been patronising the meetings of the police chiefs, whose success in providing security and stability for their countries will further strengthen Arab solidarity, Mr. Dajani noted. He said that the Jordanian Ministry of Interior hopes that the conference will come up with resolu-

tions and recommendations which will contribute to this goal.

The three-day meeting will discuss the concept of universal security and the relationship between security and development, among other major themes, according to Mr. Akram Nashaat, secretary-general of the Arab Interior Ministers Council which has organised the meeting.

Mr. Nashaat told Petra that the delegations will look into means for implementing recommendations passed by earlier meetings and by individual Arab ministers of interior.

Meanwhile, delegations from Oman, Yemen Arab Republic, Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen, Iraq, and Bahrain arrived here on Monday to take part in the conference. The delegations were received upon arrival by Director of Public Security Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Dr. Nashaat, and senior public security officers.

Official to finalise wheat deal in Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply led by Mr. Abdullah Al Hawamdeh, the ministry's under secretary, has left for Saudi Arabia for talks on the purchase of Saudi Arabian wheat.

The talks, which are due to begin today, are expected to last several days, and will deal with additional shipments of Saudi wheat to Jordan.

Saudi Arabia, earlier this year sold Jordan unspecified amounts of wheat; there was no indication from the ministry of the size of the shipment.

Ministers discuss unemployment

AMMAN (Petra) — Means of solving the unemployment problems in the country were the subject of discussion at a meeting held at the Prime Ministry on Monday. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Abdul Wahab Al Majali, chairman of the special committee in charge of following up on unemployment in Jordan. The committee members' measures aimed at overcoming the problem of unemployment, in the light of the decisions of the ministerial committee on the subject.

Universities announce new student acceptances

IRBID (Petra) — The Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) announced Monday that it has accepted 360 male and female students to enroll in various faculties for the 1987-1988 academic year. New lists of accepted students will be made public once the number of those who will actually attend classes is known, according to the announcement.

The university will announce new lists of admitted students when the final number of students enrolling in different faculties is known, Mr. Rifai said.

He also said that acceptance of non-Jordanian students at Yarmouk University requires prior approval by the Ministry of Higher Education.

EC assails Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Perez de Cuellar and the increasing involvement to European navies in the region.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen said the ministers agreed to send a quick response to Morocco's request to join the community but reiterated that membership was restricted to European states.

"We are very eager to present our goodwill in order to maintain and increase the very close and deep relationship between the European Community and Morocco both in the economic field and in the political field," he said.

France's minister for European affairs, Bernard Bosson, told reporters it was clear Morocco could not join but added:

U.S. presents new draft treaty

(Continued from page 1)

Both sides said this could clear the way for a summit in Washington between Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Reagan said key elements of the new U.S. proposal were: — Elimination of all U.S. and Soviet INF missiles and launchers, with medium-range weapons eliminated within three years and shorter-range within one year.

— A ban on the modernisation, production or flight testing of any INF missile system.

— A comprehensive and effective verification regime tailored to a global double-zero outcome.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the pace of the missile elimination remained to be worked out in negotiations.

Mr. Reagan said the United States "will not settle for anything less" than the most effective verification possible.

He said that difficult issues remained to be resolved, including verification.

Deputy prime minister affirms support for W. Bank farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali on Monday stressed the government's continuous support for farmers in the occupied West Bank and for the Agricultural Cooperation Federation's (ACF) efforts to provide cooperative services to West Bank farmers.

At a meeting with members of the board of directors of the ACF, Mr. Majali reviewed the agricultural situation in the occupied West Bank, as well as the services rendered to farmers by the federation. They also discus-

sed means for further improving the situation of farmers in the occupied territory, to help them remain steadfast in their homeland.

ACF Board of Directors Chairman Tahseen Al Fares, along with the board members, praised the Jordanian government's efforts to support the steadfastness of their kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories.

Later in the day, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin received the de-

legation members and discussed with them issues pertaining to the problem of marketing West Bank agricultural products. Mr. Dudin pointed out the importance of rationalising production, in terms of quality and quantity.

He also stressed the government's support for the farmers in the occupied Arab territories, and said that, "the government will spare no effort to provide assistance to the farmers in the occupied Arab territories in the light of the available resources."

JEA says 656 villages electrified

AMMAN (Petra) — A report by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) said Monday that 656 Jordanian villages inhabited by nearly one-million people were supplied with electricity between 1975 and 1986. It said that these villages constitute 93 per cent of the total of the rural regions in the Kingdom.

According to the report the JEA spent JD 10 million between 1976 and 1980 and JD 20 million during the 1981-1985 five-year plan on its rural electrification projects. In the current five-year plan, the report said, the JEA plans to spend nearly JD 19 mil-

lion on various electrification schemes in rural regions.

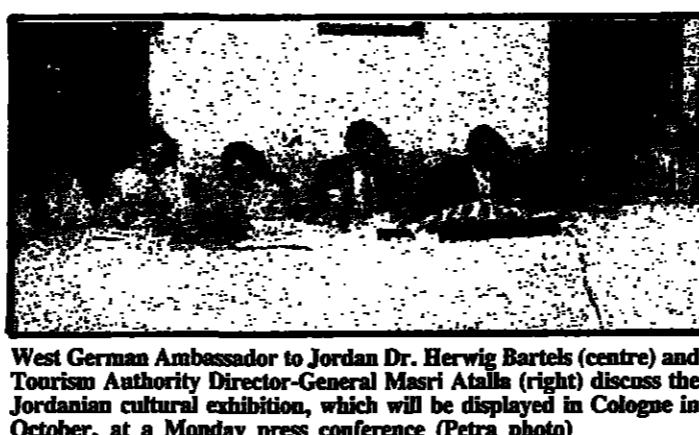
A total of 183,335 subscribers in rural regions benefited from JEA power supply in 1986, most of which was consumed for domestic use, the report noted.

It said that JEA, in cooperation with the Jordan Electricity Company and the Irbid District Electricity Company, will supply electricity to 288 villages during the current five-year plan.

On Monday, the JEA said that it has completed work on connecting two villages in Karak Governorate with electricity. This project is part of a JD 1-million, includes a 132,000-kilowatt, double-circuit relay line, iron towers, porcelain insulators, and aerial steel wires.

Ambassador, tourism head say exhibit highlights cultural exchange

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter



AMMAN — The stage is almost set for the opening on Oct. 2 of a major Jordanian cultural exhibition in the Federal Republic of Germany. The exhibition includes an archaeological collection, an ethnographic exhibit, and an accompanying display of a documentation of Jordanian village architecture.

A joint press conference by Tourism Authority Director-General Khaled Haj Hassan, Minister of Education Tharouq Al Hindawi, Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Hawamdeh, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh, Planning Minister Tamer Kanaan, Civil Service Commission President Ibrahim Izzuddin and Mr. Ali Hindawi, Prime Minister's adviser.

The six-month exhibition, perhaps the Kingdom's most important exhibition abroad, will display an archaeological collection displayed in Paris last year.

The collection represents "4,000 Years of Art in the Kingdom of Jordan." It consists of authentic objects from the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Yarmouk University, representing Prehistoric, Biblical, Greco-Roman, Nabataean, Byzantine, and Islamic periods.

The ethnographic section of the exhibition entitled "Splendor and Secrets — Costumes from Jordan and Palestine," focuses on Mrs. Widat Qawar's collection of Jordanian and Palestinian costumes and jewelry, and the ethnographic collection of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Yarmouk University. Jordanian artist and architect Ammar Khammash, 27, who is a graduate student at the institute will be exhibiting his work, along with the ethnological objects, photographs, drawings, and watercolours documenting the essential aspects of traditional village life in Jordan.

The university will announce new lists of admitted students when the final number of students enrolling in different faculties is known, Mr. Rifai said.

He also said that acceptance of non-Jordanian students at Yarmouk University requires prior approval by the Ministry of Higher Education.

The ambassador pointed out a political angle to the exhibition, which he said, faced heavy criticism from some quarters in his country. He was apparently referring to pro-Zionist groups in West Germany who oppose the promotion of Arab culture, particularly the Palestinian heritage.

Mr. Atalla told the conference that the exhibition in Cologne would give a definite boost to the tourism industry in Jordan, in addition to emphasising the richness of Jordan's history. He said the cost of the exhibition to the ministry could reach JD 25,000.

Director of Queen Noor's office Shaker Bak, who attended the conference, said the exhibition was "a project which Her Majesty gives great attention and support through the Royal Cultural Committee and the Queen Noor Al Hussein Foundation."

In reviewing work on her costume collection, Mrs. Qawar said, in taking part in the exhibition, she was not interested in "the style or high fashion" value of these dresses. Rather, she is concerned with the heritage value.

The exhibition, which is carried

of the Palestinian and Jordanian traditional costumes, Mrs. Qawar expressed thanks and admiration to Dr. Bartels for what she described as his "passion for Arab culture, and the effort he put in the exhibition." She said the exhibition was "a cultural message," which is more important than "political lectures."

Mr. Khammash also spoke about his display of Jordanian rural architecture, which he said would serve as a container for the other ethnological objects at the exhibition. He told the Jordan Times that the exhibition was interesting not only in its exposure of Jordanian heritage to other people, but in terms of how Jordanians view themselves and their heritage, and the way they project it to the rest of the world.

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Reasserting role of U.N.

THE 42nd session of the U.N. General Assembly convenes in New York today amid concern over the fate of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's peace mission to the Gulf and the prospects for a summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The debates within the conference halls of the U.N. as well as the negotiations in the corridors of the U.N., away from the limelight of the assembly hall, will once again attempt to tackle the same 140-item agenda of this year's session. The Middle East conflict, the Palestine case, will undoubtedly receive the same routine attention it has received in the past and will surely harvest even more verbose resolutions. In fact, it is highly probable that most of the items on this year's agenda will be debated as hotly and ineffectively as ever, and will reap resolutions duplicating, for the most part, the provisions of earlier resolutions with one marked difference: an additional paragraph or two.

Many delegates from the various regions of the world will also await anxiously the outcome of the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks in Washington, on which the fate of the anticipated agreement on intermediate-range nuclear weapons between Washington and Moscow will surely rest. The results of these talks between the foreign ministers of the U.S. and the Soviet Union will certainly determine the prospects for a superpower summit. The community of member countries of the United Nations have already taken political notice that the superpowers' agenda will concentrate, this year, at least on nuclear disarmament, the Gulf conflict, and measures to reduce tension in Latin America. Yet they are expected to pay lip service to the Middle East conflict, the Palestinian conflict to appease Arab sensitivities. Meanwhile, Arab delegates are expected to be dual-minded, concentrating on the two main crises in the Arab World, the Palestinian conflict and the Gulf war, with the latter receiving the lion's share of their genuine concern in view of the fact that it is now the more volatile and pressing issue. In this regard, full 'credit,' or rather 'responsibility,' for this alarming sense of priorities in the Arab agenda goes to the disunity in the ranks of the Arab countries vis-à-vis the Gulf conflict which, in turn, made it possible for the Gulf war to continue until now without an honourable end in sight.

The Arab delegates participating in this year's sessions will emerge feeling triumphant and will graduate from its multifaceted discussions feeling relieved for having scored similar verbal successes as their colleagues have done on previous occasions. After all that is why we have the U.N.; without these annual rituals, the weak, disillusioned, and frustrated, small or powerless countries will have no place to air their grievances in the company of fellow representatives of other, more powerful, countries.

No matter how much we try to belittle the political achievements of the U.N. system as a whole, one can hardly gloss over its marked achievements in economic, social and legal matters on the international as well as regional levels. Through the U.N., we have achieved outstanding advancements in the fields of health, environmental control, disarmament, and human rights, to name only a few. The struggle against apartheid, and similar crimes against humanity all over the world, cannot pass without recognition. We need the U.N. and its system and network of activities in spite of all its shortcomings which are, after all, due to the failings of the member states themselves. It is incumbent on us all to support the U.N. during this year's session by asking the representatives of the member states to rise above their petty differences and to concentrate on propositions which can advance peace and harmony among the peoples of the earth.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.N. failure

THE United Nations Security Council has not been able to reach a resolution condemning Israel's recent air raid on Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp in Lebanon. This gives us a feeling of deep concern and frustration because the international community has witnessed an open and unprovoked aggression on a U.N. member nation causing the death and injury of innocent civilians. Those countries which had been opposing any condemnation of Israel's aggression and barbaric attacks on civilian population, used to justify their position by expressing fear that such condemnation would harm the process of peace. They used to say that such condemnation by the council would result in negative reaction by Israel which might escalate its aggression and pursue aggressive acts against Arab states and avoid making peace with the Arabs. But this stand on the part of these countries has not yielded constructive results and did not reflect positively on the peace process. This stand if anything, has encouraged the Israelis to pursue their aggression and their air raids on innocent civilian Palestinians in their camps. It is a pity to see that such world countries continue to brag about principles, values and human rights as they continue to see Israel pursuing its terrorist activity and its killing of innocent civilians without any condemnation or any measure to deter the aggressors.

Al Dustour: Tehran continues to manoeuvre

AS was expected by observers, the U.N. secretary general has ended his visit to Tehran without arriving at any progress to achieve peace or to bring about a ceasefire in the Gulf conflict. The U.N. Security Council has dispatched Javier Perez de Cuellar to the Gulf region in the hope of urging the Iranian regime to implement its Resolution 598 aimed at ending the conflict between Iran and Iraq. Although Iran's statements so far did not explicitly indicate that Tehran refuses the resolution outright, yet Iran's behaviour, its escalation of tension during De Cuellar's visit and hints dropped by its leaders, all point to the fact that the rulers in Tehran adhere to their stand and refuse to implement the council resolution which enjoyed total world support. As Iran is refusing to comply to the will of the international community, the council is bound to meet again in the near future to hear a report from the secretary general on his mission and to assess the situation before taking further steps. Once it is clear to the council that Iran refuses the council resolution, measures are expected to be taken for imposing sanctions on that country. Once sanctions are imposed on the Iranians, the end of the Gulf conflict will be in sight, since Tehran rulers will be denied the means to continue their aggression.

The View from Second Circle

Some proposals for the next parliament

By Rami G. Khouri

THERE has been considerable speculation during the past year about whether a general election will be held soon to elect a new Lower House of Parliament, to replace the existing house whose term expires in January. Many interesting theories have been proposed about why an election will or will not be held, with people citing domestic, regional and international phenomena to support their viewpoints.

It has all been quite interesting to try to predict the course of parliamentary life in the near future, though I think we may have been focussing on the wrong aspect of our parliamentary life. More important than when a general election will be held, I suggest, is the question of the structure and role of parliament in Jordan today, on which I would offer the following points for consideration:

1) It is time for a fulltime, year-round parliament, to replace the present situation of parliamentarians who have other fulltime vocations and who carry out their parliamentary duties intermittently, when the house is called into session by the speaker. The range and complexity of public issues we face as a country are far greater than those which Jordanian parliamentarians had to deal with in the 50s and 60s.

Despite the increased capacity of the executive branch of government to deal with contemporary issues and challenges, it is unrealistic to expect ministers and their staffs to be able to cope with the wide range of subjects that our society faces today. Fulltime parliamentarians would instantly provide another 142 thoughtful and energetic minds to the pool of people involved in public policy formulation. This would attract even more of our most capable people to run for elections, and would considerably enrich the process of public debate. A fulltime parliament would necessarily bring with some structural changes in how parliament functions, such as:

2) The formation of fulltime parliamentary committees, equipped with research facilities and professional staff members to help the members of parliament conduct the kind of dispassionate factual research that is an essential requirement of any legislative process based on principles of pluralism and majority votes. We deal today with national issues which will determine the course of our development for decades to come, including issues of education, economic development, the use of natural resources, opportunities for women, the status of children, water and bilateral and

regional relationships.

In the past two decades, executive decision-making in Jordan (and most of the Third World, to be fair to Jordan) has been characterised by inconsistent policies which can change with a change of government or minister. Fulltime research facilities and staff would allow the parliament to carry out another important function, which is:

3) Holding public committee hearings on issues of national concern. The pattern in Jordan to date has been to recognise a problem after it has become quite acute (such as unemployment, deficiencies in the civil service or a distorted education system out of step with labour market needs), and then to tackle it by holding a national conference. Follow-up to such cases is not always assured. We have the manpower in Jordan to anticipate such challenges at a much earlier stage, and we need an institutionalised mechanism to respond quicker, and before the problems become too big to deal with.

Parliamentary committee hearings are a good means to do this. Committees on agriculture, education, water, natural resources, industry, labour, tourism and other sectors would develop the kind of institutional expertise and national corporate memory we now lack. Our executive branch institutions, such as ministries, authorities and departments, have their hands full implementing current policies and programmes, and lack the time needed to step back from day-to-day pressures to assess trends in the next several decades and propose measures to meet future needs.

Parliamentary committee staffs would also be able to publish reports and proceedings of hearings, which would make vital information on public issues more readily available to the general public — an essential component of democratic life. The committees should also assume another crucial function, which is:

4) To hold hearings on key appointments of public officials. Jordan is lucky to be blessed with an extraordinarily high quality of senior officials in the public sector. Our weak point, however, is that as new officials are appointed, the public has no idea of the policies they will implement. By holding hearings on the appointments of senior officials, parliamentary committees could provide an invaluable service by clarifying the views of new appointees, and in the process would contribute substantially and intelligently to public policy options and discussions. Such hearings would also

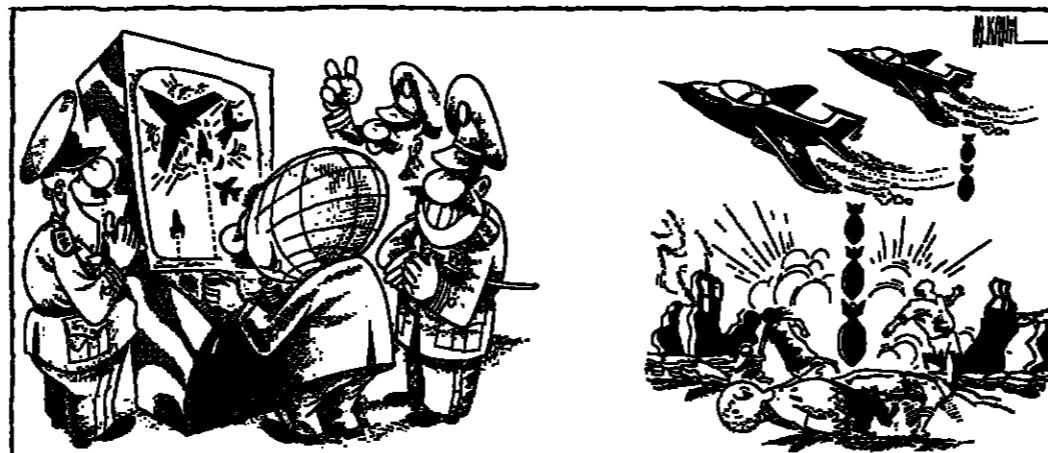
help provide the sort of continuity which we sometimes lack today.

5) Parliament should also be more diligently involved in formulating fiscal policy, notably by holding far more extensive hearings on the annual national budget. The budget now is prepared by the executive branch and submitted to parliament about a month or so before the start of the new year. It would seem appropriate for the budget to be submitted to parliament at least three months before the start of the fiscal year, which would give time for standing parliamentary committees to analyse the budget in far greater detail with the executive branch of government.

A stronger parliamentary role in fiscal policy would probably lead to more accurate budget forecasts, and would thereby help alleviate the chronic problem of overspending and annual reliance on end-of-the-year borrowings which are only referred to parliament after the fact. Our national debt has grown to the point where we cannot easily expect to keep borrowing, domestically or internationally, without having to pay a price either in our debt service ratio or in the credibility of our economic management capabilities.

6) Parliament should also have a more substantive role in assuring that our executive branch performs to its best abilities. Committee hearings would be one mechanism by which parliament could hold executive branch officials and institutions more accountable before the general public. More stringent public accountability procedures would be very useful in helping assure that our limited financial resources are allocated in the most appropriate manner, and that decisions on allocations are then implemented in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

7) And finally, it seems to me that a fulltime parliament with research staff and facilities and standing committees would be the most effective way to tap the full human and intellectual resources of our country — a country which is renowned for exporting top quality manpower. One of our ironic weaknesses as a country that exports brains is that we seem to lack independent think tanks and research organisations that can contribute to debates on public policy formulation. The private sector has not played this role, and neither have our educational institutions. Parliament is the appropriate forum for such endeavours — because parliament is constitutionally charged with the task of legislating, and is politically delegated to represent the wishes of the people.



A Sunday in South Lebanon

By Paul Fielder

THE most popular beach in South Lebanon is the "Workers Liberation" beach at Rumaila, just north of Sidon. On any Sunday throughout the summer the beach is packed with sunworshippers, swimmers, singers and dancers, and people who bring an ample Lebanese lunch, often starting a barbecue to grill kebabs and kufra. People come from all over — from Beqaa, from Beirut, and most notably from the deep south, where it is forbidden to drink araq and to old parties. Women sunbathe in bikinis or fashionable one-pieces, and splash in the water with boyfriends, brothers or cousins.

Rumaila falls in the Communist "canton," a political military centre which does a roaring trade in alcohol. The few wealthy citizens from Sidon, where the sale of alcohol is still banned except in one fashionable restaurant owned by member of the Junblatt family, come to buy their araq, whisky and beer, or lunch in the thriving restaurants overlooking the sea. It is from Rumaila that Lebanon's newest and most lively radio station broadcasts — *Sau al-Sha'b*, the voice of the people — on which Fairuz's son, Ziad Rahbani, known as the "conscience of Lebanon" has a regular irreverent slot of music and jokes.

From "Workers' Liberation" beach you can just about hear the Israeli jets going over "Ain Al Hilweh" Palestinian camp in the afternoon. Raids on the camp, inflicting loss of life and damage, have always taken place in the afternoon. So the people in the camp have changed their schedules — UNRWA schools finish at lunch time and kindergartens do not operate an afternoon session. Sunday is quite a likely day for the Israelis to make a dummy run over the camp. Saturday having been a day of rest. (This article was printed before the Israeli raids of Sept. 5, a Saturday.)

Although the air raids inflicting casualties and damage have been recorded in the Western media, little is made of the sometimes nightly raids by jets or helicopters on gunships. Pandemonium breaks out in the camp as the clatter of helicopters is followed by the deafening rush of two or three flares fired from above. At first no-one is sure whether the sound denotes rockets or just flares. Thereafter, for ten minutes or more the camp is lit as bright as day as people scurry for shelter. In the distance is the sound of the air raid siren, while all around are shouts and screams of children as they rush from roofs and open spaces. In the beginning people would stay put to watch the effects of the raid, but following the deaths of so many innocent bystanders they have learnt their

lesson. And it is only five years since similar flares were used to light the skies over Sabra and Shatila camps in Beirut.

This year has been a hard one for children in the camp. Schools were closed for four months during the clashes between the Palestinians and Amal, another disrupted academic year. And in the meantime the raids have increased, adding an extra dimension to night time terror. Over the last year the camp has been filled to bursting by Palestinian refugees fleeing the south from the daily intimidation and harassment faced by residents of Bourj Al Shimali, Bass and Rashidiyya camps. It is difficult to know exactly how many people live in Ain Al Hilwa, since the only statistics are from UNRWA, who only record registered refugees, but local people put the figure at 80,000.

In effect, the siege has not been lifted from Rashidiyya, just south of Tyre, and exit and entry from the camp are still fraught with danger. In the other two camps the residents are subject to the constant fear of kidnap and murder. During recent weeks ten women have been taken, including one who works for a local humanitarian organisation. Bodies of kidnapped Palestinian men have been found mangled and horribly mutilated and nobody knows the fate of the others who have disappeared. Although Palestinians have been the principal victims of the brutality in Tyre, it has cut across the bounds of all confessions and political persuasions. Virtually all members of the Lebanese Communist Party have fled the south, and the local people report attacks on Sunnis, Christians, and even on Shi'ites who are known not to be on the side of the Amal. Tyre is governed by the firm hand of Amal, and on the checkpoint leading from Bass to the city centre enormous pictures of Musa Sadr and the Imam Khomeini act as spiritual guardians to ensure the strict morality of no mixed bathing, no alcohol and decorous public behaviour.

In the meantime there is a growing community of Iranians in and around Tyre, who are reported to be buying up land and marrying into the local Shi'ite community. These days it is not unusual to be passed on the Beiruti-Tyre highway by a Volvo packed with bearded young men and Iranian music blaring from the open window.

For the Christian community east of Sidon progress since the exodus of 1985 has been a story of two steps forward and one step back. Originally a community of 60,000 strong, the return of Christian villagers had continued at a steady pace from Jezzine, the border strip and east Beirut until it reached some 14,000 towards

British unions learn to live with Thatcher

By Deborah Telford

Reuter

BLACKPOOL, England — Britain's trade union leaders are smartening themselves up, toning down their rhetoric of class struggle and talking high-tech — all because of the woman most of them love to hate, Margaret Thatcher.

Her re-election in June for five more years has prodded the leaders of the British labour movement into realising that they must change their image and broaden their appeal.

Since Thatcher was first elected in 1979, high unemployment, changing job patterns, her privatisation policies and laws to curb union strength have seriously eroded support for unions whose political power peaked in the 1970s.

Membership of the Trade Union Congress (TUC), the unions' umbrella group, has plummeted 25 per cent to just over nine million, the same number as the number of shareholders in Britain.

Jobs have disappeared in the traditionally unionised state sector and manual industries while union organisation is weak in new high-tech and white-collar jobs that have replaced them.

A Mori opinion poll this month showed a majority of members think their unions are dominated by extremists, out of touch with rank and file and too closely linked with the opposition Labour Party.

At the TUC's first post-election conference this month, most delegates scoffed at charges that they were stuck in the 1930s mould of cloth-capped Communist-inspired stirrers who regarded unions primarily as instruments of class struggle.

But the TUC would not budge from supporting Labour's defence policy of unilateral disarmament, although some union leaders said it lost the party votes and should be put to a referendum.

Some unions have already tried to boost their membership by trying to recruit from an "underclass" of low-paid, part-time and female workers.

The electricians' union (EEPUTU), which is on the right-wing of the trade union movement, has adopted a business approach, offering members stockbroking advice, the use of lavish holiday homes and discounts on goods.

Opinion in the labour movement is split over such moves, with left-wing unions criticising them as materialistic and selling out to employers.

Arthur Scargill, left-wing leader of the National Miners Union, said the moves were "prostituting the principles of the trade union movement."

But when Scargill, who led the coalminers during Britain's longest strike from March 1984 to March 1985, attempted to stop part of the TUC review, his efforts were overruled.

"He was trounced, absolutely trounced. That tells you the mood of the movement," Bill

for the fact that, unlike the other 28 million printed, the candles were burning upside down.

What appears to have happened is that employees of the CIA, which is awash with intelligence analysts making sophisticated judgments on scraps of raw data like spy satellite photos and stamps, spotted the error on a 95-cent stamp purchased at the local post office.

They did so after nine had been used and one accidentally torn. On the advice of a local dealer he sold the remaining 85 stamps to Mr. Yeager for a "low five-figure" sum, a convincing detail since — as with those underpriced TOW missiles and Hawks sold to Iran via Manucher Ghorbanifar — they could be worth \$10 million on the open market.

"They said they worked in an office where they found the stamps. They claimed they didn't want their names used in any way because their boss might find out," recalled Mr. Schiff, a major dealer, who announced his purchase to the trade a month later in May, 1986. But it was only when the Bureau of Engraving held its own inquest that the facts were put together and finally published by Mr. Yeager with the help of a suspicious stamp dealer. He obtained the bureau's report under the Freedom of Information Act. "I was sort of wondering whether the money had gone to the contras," he told the New York Times — The Guardian.

LETTERS

Please help

To the Editor:

I WAS most interested to read the article about backache in the Jordan Times (Sept. 7). I do agree with Professor Spangler's statement that doctors can seldom help backache sufferers.

I have had back problems for many years as a result of an accident. Doctors could do nothing, and I was in agony for a long time until someone advised me to go to a chiropractor. Since then I have had regular treatment in Britain, which has kept me "mobile". I have now been in Amman for five weeks and am in urgent need of treatment. Is there a chiropractor available who can help me? Surely the football team must know of one! If so, please write to me at P.O. Box 184540, Amman.

Chris Larter

Portraits of the Arab World

By Nadia Hijab

LAST WEEK'S showing of Egyptian director Youssef Chahine's *The Land* at the National Film Theatre is a first in more ways than one. It is the first of 21 films from the Arab World that will be shown at the NFT through September and October, and it is the first time that an Arab film festival has been held in London, 10 years after the first Arab film was made, in Cairo.

British audiences will have the chance to see not just classics like *The Land*, which Chahine made in 1969 about a young peasant who rebels against the loss of his only source of livelihood. More recent works are on offer, like the highly acclaimed *City Dreams* by Syria's Mohammad Malas. This is a partly-autobiographical tale of a little boy whose world shifts between the safety of home and the tumultuous Damascus of the 1950s with its mixture of military coups, elections, the Suez crisis and aspirations to Arab unity.

Another Syrian film on show is Dourah Lahham's epic *The Frontiers*. Lahham's caustic treatment of Arab regimes has just as much relevance to Levantine audiences as to those in North Africa, where his shows sell out.

There is a strong showing by

Algerian directors, who have produced some of the best Arab cinema over the years, Mohammad Lakhdar-Hamina's *Years of the Brazier*, which won the 1975 Palme d'Or at Cannes, focuses on two villages struck by drought and typhoid that still manage to mount an uprising against the French colonialists.

But not all problems disappear with independence — and some get worse. This is the message behind Abdel Aziz Torbi's *Noua*, which portrays daily life in post-independence Algeria. Social comedy is the hallmark of Slim Riad's work, as seen in *Hassan Taxi*, the tale of the anti-hero Hassan who sees life through a cab window.

Meanwhile, other Egyptian classics will be shown; like Chahine's *The Sparrow* which tackles the Arab defeat in the June war of 1967 and which was banned for many years, much of the Arab World.

And director Salam Abu Seif, who has been described as the "father of Egyptian realism," is represented by *The Water Carrier is Dead* which portrays life in a poor quarter of Cairo. Ali Badrakhan's *Hunger* has a poignant message for all Third World countries, which Hussein Kamal's *The Postman* looks at the still

powerful social custom of linking family-honour to the sexual purity of women, and the tragedy this visits on society.

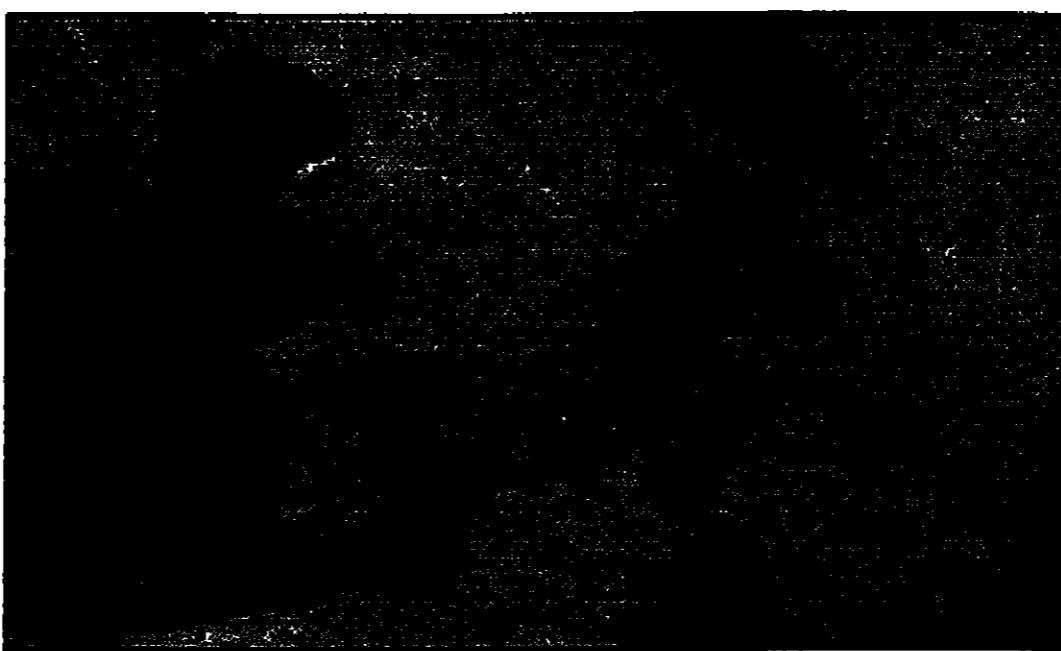
Other films in the festival include, from the Gulf, Kuwaiti director Khaled Sadiq's *The Cruel Sea*; from Lebanon, Maroun Baghdadi's masterpiece on the civil war, *Little Wars*, and Bourhan Alawiyeh's *Kafir Qassem*, the moving reconstruction of the Israeli massacre in that Palestinian village.

That the festival has taken place at all, is thanks to nearly two years work and not a little frustration on the part of Middle East specialists Rose Issa, manager of *Kuwa Gallery*, and Jana Gough, a freelance editor.

"I became really determined to bring more Arab cinema to English-speaking audiences when I went to see a film that *Time Out* had described as the "best Arab film." Says Issa, "I don't want to mention the film's name, because a lot of hard work had gone into it, but it certainly wasn't the best."

Rose is in a position to know, having been involved in setting up the first Arab film festival in Paris, now in its fifth year, and having worked at the Cannes festival for three years.

Jana Gough was equally deter-



A scene from Moroccan film *Traces*

mimed: "I'd been a member of the NFT ever since I can remember. As a British cinematographer I had the opportunity to see films from places like Cuba and Vietnam — but rarely an Arab film, although I knew the NFT tried to get them."

Little is known about Arab cinema in the English-speaking world: International film dictionaries regularly omit even such key figures as Youssef Chahine, the festival organisers point out. This is partly the fault of Arab

governments, which do not yet take film-making seriously enough.

"Almost none of the Arab countries has a cinematheque, and there's little awareness of the importance of preserving films and having reference copies.

Really the history of Arab cinema is at risk," Rose says worriedly. "Our dream," adds Jana, "is to build an archive of Arab cinema."

Meanwhile, they're settling for the less ambitious option of persuading bodies like the British

Film Institute to purchase classics and keep them in their libraries. The fact that the London Arab film festival is to be an annual event will certainly help.

Through the festival, the organisers hope, British audiences will be introduced to the many Arab "talented, non-conformist directors, motivated by the desire to analyse their country's social history and to denounce not only the burden of inherited traditions

but also man's exploitation of man" — *The Guardian*.

Rogue radio operator just another hassle in Gulf

By Jeffrey Bartholet

Reuter

DUBAI — The ship's captain, contacted by an Iranian gunboat demanding to know what he was carrying, was startled when a voice breaks into the radio link to answer:

"Bombs, rockets, atom bombs."

The risks are real. More than 350 ships have been attacked since the Iran-Iraq war spilled over into the sea lanes in 1981.

Iran attacks from the air, sending warplanes to fire missiles at tankers ferrying Iran's oil out of the Gulf.

Iran attacks from the sea because Iraq no longer ships oil through the waterway. Iran targets foreign vessels operating to and from Gulf states like Kuwait which support Iraq in the war.

Shippers do not know the nationality of the operator, who started off several years back and revelled in abusing Filipino sailors on ships plying the Gulf. They think the "Filipino monkey" now has many imitators.

The original sobriquet was derived from the derogatory phrase it intercepts shipping entering the Gulf, exercising its right to check if they are carrying war material for Iraq.

Special manuals for ships plying the Gulf offer captains specific advice.

If challenged by an Iranian gunboat, "just state name and nationality ... do not give the destination/previous port information."

"If I ever find one (like him) on one of my boats, I'll throw him right off," said one ex-captain, now a shipping agent.

Shipping agents who monitor the radio waves say the rogue operator usually starts by baiting Filipino seamen with barbs like "Filipino, Filipino, punky Filipino."

"Then some Filipino seaman will get on to abuse him," the agent said.

"There might be a Greek who gets on to stick up for the Filipinos, and then he curses the Greek."

Filipinos make up many of the crews operating in the Gulf. — *The Washington Post*.

New Testament research becomes a more liberal, international affair

Research into the New Testament has become more liberal over the years. The work of Catholics and those of various strands of Protestantism are often quoted side-by-side without discrimination. The subject has acquired a more international flavour, with international congresses, the use of guest lectures and the publication of works internationally. More German theological books are translated than ever before, although many American publishers complain about their verbosity. Last month 400 theologians from all confessions met in Göttingen to talk about New Testament research. Karl-Alfred Odén reported in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

THE congress, organised by the New Testament society which has the Latin name of Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, was chaired by Bishop Eduard Lohse, of Hanover, a former rector of Göttingen University.

The New Testament society was established after the war and is the only international association of professors of this discipline. It meets once a year, with each involved country taking turn as host.

The congress last took place in West Germany 10 years ago. Göttingen was chosen to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Georg-August University in the city.

An overall view of New Testament research emerged during the conference and several contentious matters were discussed.

Themes extended from the text of the New Testament, its historical, cultural and social environment, its theological significance and questions such as how to make the contents comprehensible to people today.

More contentious issues were discussed in various seminars where researchers related their own findings.

Many seminars discussed the relationship of belief, thought and

the written word to the Jews of the time, the first generation of Christians and the social environment of early Christianity.

The Romans did not at first regard Christians as an independent religious congregation but as a special group within the Jewish religion.

This meant that Christians came under the protection regulations for approved religions, *religio licita*.

Christians themselves only gradually drew apart from Judaism, and there was tension in this.

Research into the New Testament has been carried out mutually by all confessions since the Second Vatican Council and the appreciation of modern biblical research. Theological students only a generation ago had only heard of a single book by a Catholic researcher in lectures in Protestant faculties. Today, academic works from Evangelical, Anglican, and Catholic research are quoted indiscriminately alongside each other in footnotes.

They found their expression in the New Testament which eventually led to a division between the two congregations.

Discoveries of Jewish and Christian writings of the period have cast new light on the spiritual world of the time. There is still dispute about the relationships between the writings of the New Testament, the Gnostics, Jewish Hellenism that came to light in the Qumran scrolls, and the other currents in early Judaism.

More is getting to be known about the social and political facts of the beginnings of Christianity and its Jewish, Greek, Roman environment. Specialists differ in their views, however.

The Americans mainly have prepared the ground for research into Biblical social history. This, just as much as psychological considerations, is vital for the development of New Testament studies. But it is only one aid among

Bible.

German theology constantly brings in non-theological sciences. An example is the significance of the history of religion school in Göttingen with its exploitation of social and social-historical knowledge.

But the nucleus of the New Testament is theology and not sociology, literature, politics or psychology.

There are a number of students who have sought to give a Marxist interpretation of the New Testament but this has found little academic approval.

Many seminars in Göttingen dealt with Biblical texts, among others with the miracles in St. Matthew's Gospel, with the parable of the sower, of the growth of seed and of the mustard seed in St. Mark's Gospel, with the visit of Nicodemus to Jesus by night in St. John's Gospel and with the Revelation of St. John.

One theme for discussion was

the ethos of St. Paul's theology, the demand for an emulation of Christ.

Another theme was the relationship that exists in St. Paul's letters between Christ's doctrine and the relationship to the earthly Jesus.

The question of the establishment of an authentic wording of the Bible and the general development of a stable canon of Biblical scripture were also discussed.

The New Testament was once not the source for Christianity, as it is today. The Old Testament was. It took many centuries before the New Testament became established in all churches.

One seminar in Göttingen was concerned with prayer, divine service and spirituality in the New Testament, with the aid of the Letter to the Hebrews, in which Paul's doctrine of justification by faith is expounded. These are themes that are increasingly examined in churches.

This is also true for the question how did members of the congregations listen to the biblical text in the period from which the New Testament originated, and how can people today understand what is written in the Bible?

The Bible and its readers and the people who heard it, is a vital theme for many churches.

Research into the New Testament has been carried out mutually by all confessions since the Second Vatican Council and the appreciation of modern biblical research.

Theological students only a generation ago had only heard of a single book by a Catholic researcher in lectures in Protestant faculties.

Today, academic works from Evangelical, Anglican and Catholic research are quoted indiscriminately alongside each other in footnotes.

After the last war the influence of German research was considerable. Then many German academics went to America. Now

they are back.

— *By Boyce Rensberger*

WASHINGTON — New research suggests that the AIDS virus, which once appeared to be a manageable single entity, is a complex family of rapidly mutating viruses that, like a clever enemy, can constantly change its weapons, its camouflage, its defences and even its targets in the body.

As a result of the mutations in acquired immune deficiency syndrome viruses, there are presumed to be thousands of slightly different forms. Some possibly have acquired new specialised abilities to be transmitted, to infect different tissues, to evade the immune system or to resist drug treatments.

According to findings at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the AIDS virus is mutating its genetic code as much as five times faster than the influenza virus, thought until now to be the fastest in mutating. The genes of the AIDS virus are mutating between one million and 10 million times faster than the genes of human beings.

The Los Alamos findings "cast doubt on the permanence of the AIDS virus," said Gerald Myers, a geneticist who measured the rate of change at the New Mexico laboratory.

Los Alamos, better known for its research on nuclear weapons,

operates a computerised AIDS virus data base. It contains the specific genetic codes, or what is

a technically difficult process.

Researchers have known for some time that the AIDS virus can mutate, spawning slightly differing lineages. And they have been aware of major differences that distinguish two families of AIDS viruses, called Human Immunodeficiency Virus 1, or HIV-1, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus 2, HIV-2.

HIV-1 includes the vast majority of AIDS cases around the world but a few cases caused by HIV-2 have been found in West Africa and France. There are preliminary reports of a third and possibly a fourth family.

Although AIDS virus classification has few agreed-upon rules, differences within a family are usually very small while those between families are relatively large. The Los Alamos findings reveal that the rate of change is considerably faster than previously assumed.

The Los Alamos findings "cast doubt on the permanence of the AIDS virus," said Gerald Myers, a geneticist who measured the rate of change at the New Mexico laboratory.

Officials said that the worker was growing the virus in large amounts whose concentrations far exceeded the amount that most lab workers deal with or that the public could be exposed to.

which the viruses have been accumulating changes in the past decade and to calculate that it would require about four decades to accumulate the number of differences between the two families.

Mr. Myers suggested that if large enough changes in the AIDS virus arise, some strain could be different enough that a vaccine against one fails to protect against another.

For the same reasons, the AIDS antibody test could fail to detect the presence of an infection. The test looks for a specific kind of antibody and if the person's immune system has manufactured a different one — appropriate to a mutated AIDS virus — the test could fail.

U.S. officials have announced the first known case in which a laboratory worker became infected with the AIDS virus as a result of working with it. The New York Times reported from Washington.

Officials said that the worker was growing the virus in large amounts whose concentrations far exceeded the amount that most lab workers deal with or that the public could be exposed to.

AIDS virus may be developing a baffling array of new strains

U.S. socialite tells of amorous times

By Alex Brummer

WASHINGTON — One of Washington's most famed and apparently lascivious socialites is planning a memoir which may put Donna Rice's accounts of life aboard the yacht *Monkey Business* in the shade.

Joan Braden, mother of eight and spouse to the journalist and broadcaster, Tom Braden — the last of Washington's Camelot liberals — is proposing to tell all about her intimate relationships with three giants of the American political scene, the late Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller, Senator Robert Kennedy and Mr. Robert McNamara.

The 80-page book proposal, which is currently doing the rounds of the New York publishing house with a relatively modest (by U.S. standards) floor price of \$100,000, has caused such a sensation among the Georgetown set that even the estimable Mrs. Braden is showing signs of cowardice. Just to make sure, however, that her gents are not lost for posterity the *Washington Post* obliged the gossip seekers with voluminous extracts.

At the manner of the Rockefeller death (in the arms of his mistress) there should be no surprise at his playful, amorous ways. Nevertheless, Mrs. Braden (a veteran assistant to Mr. Rockefeller) does her best to enlighten us all: "One evening, as I hurried

to get ready for a business appointment there was Nelson suddenly in the shower with me, wearing nothing more than a Puckish smile — my God, we had never even kissed!"

All this, however, seems to have been commonplace for the former Vice-President who had a habit — at those fashionable Washington dinner parties — of slipping his hand up the skirts of the ladies on either side of him for a little slap and tickle while the company dined on about East-West relations, the Ford pardon and the like.

Less expected in the Braden confessions is how Robert Kennedy, always portrayed by friendly biographers as the perfect family man (Marilyn Monroe notwithstanding), almost fell to the socialite's wiles. The younger Kennedy, grieving over the assassination of his brother JFK, arrived at the lady's salon and invited Mrs. Braden upstairs. "On the bed, we kissed," she recounts.

"Then he got up to take off his tie, but I could not go through with it... He was hurt, silent and angry. Why hadn't I done it? ... Tom (her husband) would have understood, even if Ethel would not have."

Gary Hart should have known.

According to *Washington* etiquette, it's socially acceptable to be naughty with equals but bad form to make love to lesser mortals — *The Guardian*.

The days of Camelot in this highly formal capital were clearly somewhat different from those of Reagan, if Mrs. Braden is to be believed. At one power cocktail

MU TANG CHAN</

Italian stars turn Mediterranean Games into their own playground

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — The Mediterranean Games have quickly become an Italian playground.

Entering the third day of competition Monday, Italy has won all but two of the 14 gold medals awarded so far in the 18-nation tournament, as well as eight silver medals, twice as many as runner-up France.

Italian swimmers have won every event so far. And they're likely to strike more gold soon because additional swimming medals are due to be awarded Monday and Tuesday.

Italy was easily tops in the 1983 Games in Casablanca as well, where it took 53 gold medals, one-third of all those awarded.

Italy's dominance has been accentuated this year because of its strength in swimming and diving, which fall first on the medal calendar, and the relatively weak swimming programmes of most Arab states.

Stefano Bartistelli set a meet record of 4:25.59 in the men's individual 400-metre medley Sunday, and Tanya Vannini did the same in the women's 200-metre

freestyle with 2:02.52.

Manuela Dalla Valle equalled the record in the 200-metre breaststroke with 2:33.21.

All of the times were comfortably short of world-record levels: 4:17.41 in the 400-metre medley, 1:57.55 in the women's freestyle and 2:27.40 in the breaststroke.

France broke through Sunday with gold for Claire Izacard in women's springboard diving.

Two Italian women — Laura Scherini and Giuliana Aor — had to settle for the silver and bronze.

Spain took a gold in women's team gymnastics Sunday. The irrepressible Italians were second.

Italian swimmers easily outpaced their rivals in the pool as they did on Saturday, prompting the comment from one official that "the Italians have become the East Germans of the Mediterranean."

Surprising Albania

For more than 40 years, Marx-

ist Albania kept its borders firmly locked. Its unknown athletes swatted at home in Europe's most obscure country, glorified only in Tosk-and Gheg-language newspapers.

The doors have been pried open and a monster has stalked out. In its first two matches at the Mediterranean Games, the Albanian women's volleyball team has thrashed the unsuspecting Italians and Turks and established itself as a favourite for a gold medal.

The Albanian women's basketball team kept up the newfound tradition on Monday by crushing Turkey 88-52 in a preliminary match.

The 18-nation tournament is the first major sports festival Albania has entered since World War II, and few experts expected much of a team sheltered so long from international competition.

"Everyone thought that the Albanians were ordinary and that anybody could beat them," said Mahmoud Saloum, a Syrian volleyball judge. The official then walked away.

But after watching their first

game against Italy, he said: "They were excellent in defence and had a fast attack."

He said they were the "best women's team of the games." The green-clad Albanians went on to beat a highly ranked Turkish volleyball team as Albanian delegation members chanted "Albania, Al-han-ia" in the stands.

Under the leadership of wartime partisan chief Enver Hoxha, Albania steered a Communist course independent of both China and the Soviet Union and fiercely critical of the West.

Hoxha cut the country of 3 million people off from contacts with all but a few allies in the outside world.

The old leader died in 1985, and his successor, Ramiz Alia, has gradually increased foreign contacts.

But the Albanian thirst for global glory still has limits. Team officials have politely refused any comment to the Western press.

"We will talk... we will talk," said one official approached by a reporter after a volleyball victory. The official then walked away.

U.S. Open men's final lost to rain, Graf still No. 1

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The U.S. Open final between top-seed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and third-seed Mats Wilander of Sweden was postponed on Sunday because of rain.

Officials rescheduled that match, as well as the women's doubles final between Americans Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver and Australian Elizabeth Smylie and Kathy Jordan of the United States for Monday.

Lendl, 27, will be appearing in his sixth consecutive U.S. Open final having won the last two years. He swept to the finals this year without losing a set.

Lendl has beaten Wilander 11 times and lost six of their previous matches.

Wilander, 23, lost to Lendl in the final of the French Open this year and the Australian Pat Cash in the Wimbledon quarter-finals. He reached the final here by beating second-seed and fellow-Swede Stefan Edberg on Saturday.

Lendl also lost to Cash at Wimbledon — in the final — after losing to the Australian at the semifinal stage of the Australian Open in January.

The winner of the men's final will receive \$250,000 and the loser \$125,000.

Martina Navratilova stands atop women's tennis, even though she is No. 2 in the computer rankings.

Navratilova won her second straight U.S. Open title and fourth overall Saturday, beating Steff Graf 7-6, 6-1. She also won six consecutive Wimbledon Crowns in July.

Those are her only titles this year, but, as the top-ranked woman for the past five years — before Graf received that ranking last month — said:

"It feels good to have a bad year and win the U.S. Open and Wimbledon. I've always said that anyone who wins the Open and

South, North Korean Olympic controversy still lingers on

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The delivery of a letter halfway around the world was being awaited by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The letter, containing what was described by North Korea as an "urgent" proposal to settle its demands to co-host the 1988 Summer Games, was sitting in the Demilitarised Zone in Panmunjon, waiting for South Korean officials to pick it up.

"It has not been received yet."

"The letter is the one that hurts most," Navratilova said. "It's not worth that many points if you win, but if you lose — and I lost to Gabriela in the semi — it costs you a lot of points."

Navratilova's confidence built throughout the U.S. Open, while Graf came down with a head cold and "I was not 100 per cent" for the final, the West German said.

"I was afraid of being overconfident coming in," Navratilova said.

The victory did not catapult her past Graf in the rankings, but it did serve as a reminder that Navratilova is far from through.

"It's a different feeling for different reasons," said her 17th Grand Slam singles title. "Such as when people are writing you off and you are coming back. There's nothing worse than people saying you are washed up and you're not."

Graf took solace in the fact she will remain No. 1 — for now.

"I'm still No. 1 and she's No. 2," Graf said. "I won't say anything against her."

Graf has accumulated so many computer points this year that she would need to lose at least one more tournament and then lose, while Navratilova wins, the Virginia Slims championships in November for Navratilova to finish No. 1.

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Napoli faces uphill struggle against Real

LONDON (R) — For once Diego Maradona's form is unlikely to be the key factor when he takes his Napoli team to Spain on Wednesday. How the Italians' defence copes with Real Madrid's 18-goal attack will be more to the point.

"Tremble Napoli. You could be the next," was the reaction of one Spanish newspaper after Real, which meets Napoli in the first round of the European Champions' Cup, beat Real Zaragoza 7-1 on Saturday to add to seven goals the previous weekend and four in their opening league match.

Napoli began its league programme on Sunday with a (1-0) win at newly-promoted Cesena, Salvatore Bagni scoring the 16th-minute winner.

"I don't know if you would put it down to the heat or whether we had our minds already on Madrid — perhaps a bit of both," said Maradona. "We are all playing the Spanish match already — after so much discussion about it. Thankfully soon we'll be out on the pitch."

Six players scored for Real in the rout of Zaragoza, Rafael Gordillo starting things off and Jesus Solana, Emilio Butragueno, Michel Gonzalez, who scored two in a row including a penalty, Miguel Chendo and substitute Milan Jankovic gathering the others.

"What we're doing is absolutely abnormal," said Butragueno.

"The way goals are going in is scandalous."

Barcelona in the doldrums

While Real Madrid's cause

continued to prosper, Barcelona showed no sign of improvement. They lost (2-0) to local rivals Espanol on Saturday and now languish sixth from the bottom of the First Division.

Argentine manager Luis Menotti at last looked to be getting results from his new array of stars at Atletico Madrid, who took third place in the league after their (3-0) win over newly-promoted Logrones.

Juventus, playing without the attacking spark of injured Ian Rush, owed their one-goal victory over Como to a penalty. Rush, already dubbed "Prince of Wales" by some football commentators, is unlikely to play in Juventus's UEFA Cup tie in Malta on Wednesday but could be fit for next week's league fixture at Empoli.

A.C. Milan's debut

A.C. Milan, Napoli's other great rival for the Italian championship this season, made the most impressive start with a (3-1) win over Pisa in which both their Dutch signings, Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten, scored.

Gullit, who joined Milan for a record \$8.5 million from PSV Eindhoven, said the heat of Italy's late summer reaching more than 30 degrees hit him hard. "I never believed that Italy in September we would be playing in the penalty spot, his eighth goal in 10 league matches for Monaco who lead the table by four points.

Bayern Munich, last season's European Cup finalists, goes into its first round game at home to Sredz Sofia without two key players — midfielder Lothar

Matthaeus and sweeper Klaus Augenthaler.

Matthaeus has been out of action for more than two weeks with a serious groin injury and without him Bayern have looked a shadow of the side which won the West German title last season with just one league defeat.

On Saturday they fell (3-1) to Cologne, their third successive away defeat. Worse still, Augenthaler was sent off for persistent fouling.

The Bayern captain misses Wednesday's match anyway as he is still under suspension from European competition after receiving his marching orders at last season's European Cup semifinal with Real Madrid.

Porto tops table

Porto, which beat Bayern in the European Cup final in May, went to the top of the Portuguese League with a (2-0) win at Varzim but French champions Bordeaux fell further behind league leaders Monaco, who beat them (1-0) on Saturday. England striker Mark Hateley scored from the penalty spot, his eighth goal in 10

league matches for Monaco who lead the table by four points.

European Cup Winners' Cup holders Ajax Amsterdam, bidding to recapture last season's sparkling form, continued their poor start to the season, losing (2-1) to F.C. Utrecht.

Ajax have now lost three of their first seven matches and are already four points adrift of champions PSV Eindhoven, who beat newly-promoted Volendam (4-1).

SPORTS IN BRIEF

U.S. motorcyclist wins European event

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Eddie Lawson of the United States rode his Yamaha to victory in the 500 c.c. class race in the Portuguese Motorcycling Grand Prix in the Jarama Circuit Sunday. Lawson, the reigning world champion, won the race, comprising 37 laps for a total of 75.9 miles (122 kms), ahead of fellow American Randy Mamola, also on a Yamaha, and Australia's Keving Magee, on a Yamaha.

Bulgarian wins but falls short of record

PADUA, Italy (R) — Bulgarian world record high jumper Stefka Kostadinova scored an easy victory at an international athletics event here on Sunday but fell short in an attempt to improve on her two-week-old record. Kostadinova, who set a record of 2.09 metres at the world championships last month, tried to leap 2.10 but had to settle for victory at 2.05. Her closest competitor, Alessandra Bonfiglioli of Italy, was able to clear only 1.84 metres.

Boesel takes sportscar crown

FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — Brazil's Raul Boesel clinched the World Sportscar Drivers' Championship at rain-swept Spa-Francorchamps on Sunday. Boesel was prevented from driving until midway through the 1,000 km test — ninth round of the series — before joining race-leading British partners Johnny Dumfries and Martin Brundle. The trio went on to win the six-hour event followed home by their Jaguar teammates John Watson of Britain and Dutchman Jan Lammers. Jaguar has already sealed the world manufacturers' prize.

Johnson wins at a stroll in London

LONDON (R) — Ben Johnson won the 100 metres at a canter but fellow world champion Billy Konchellah was beaten at an international athletics meeting at Crystal Palace on Sunday. Johnson, who smashed the world record at the Rome world championships, was an easy winner over American Mel Lattany in 10.29 seconds even though the Canadian admitted afterwards to feeling tired. Konchellah, Kenya's world 800 metres champion, was beaten by Briton Tom McKeon, who seized the opportunity to atom for his dismal, last-place showing in Rome. "Mentally, I needed to come here and run well after that happened in Rome. I don't know how many times I've run that race over in my mind since — but it's completely out of my system now," he said. McKeon clocked one minute 45.18 seconds while Konchellah managed 1:45.59 with Babacar Niang of Senegal third in 1:45.83.

Team seeks to conquer Mount Lhotse

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A Polish international team has set up its first high-altitude camp in its attempt to climb the 8,516-metre (27,932-foot) Mount Lhotse, a report received from the team Monday said. The camp was set up last Friday at 5,700 metres (18,966 feet), the message said. Led by Poland's Krzysztof Wielicki, a 37-year-old engineer from Tychy, Nalkowskies, the 16-member team has 10 Polish climbers and two each from Mexico, Britain and Italy.

Dynamics beaten in African Soccer Cup

YAOUNDE (R) — Canon of Yaounde beat Zimbabwe's Power Dynamos 2-1 (half-time 0-0) on Sunday in a first leg quarter final tie of the African Cup of champions soccer competition.

BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN

MEETING — Registration and coffee. Wednesday, September 16, 10:00 a.m.

HOLIDAY INN
Also

Wednesday, September 23, 4:00 p.m.

Lopez wins Cellular Golf Championships

PORLTAND, Oregon (AP) — Nancy Lopez of the United States came from four strokes behind over the final nine holes Sunday to win the \$225,000 Cellular One-Ping Golf Championship by one stroke over three golfers, two of whom missed short putts that could have forced a playoff.

Lopez, who began the round two shots behind second-round leader Patti Rizzo, had bogeys on the first and sixth holes to drop to 3 under par: four shots behind Stephenson.

But she roared back on the final nine, sinking birdie putts from 12 feet (4m) on the 10th hole, 6 feet (2m) on the 13th hole and 25 feet (7.1m) on the 14th.

"I didn't really think I was out of it (after nine holes), but I knew I had to play like crazy to win," she said. "It seemed like everyone else was faltering."

The 30-year-old LPGA Hall of

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| One Sterling | 1.6375/85 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.3212/17 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.8165/75 | West German marks |
| | 2.0440/50 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.5060/70 | Swiss francs |
| | 37.74/79 | Belgian francs |
| | 6.0620/70 | French francs |
| | 1310/1311 | Italian lira |
| | 144.35/45 | Japanese yen |
| | 6.4000/50 | Swedish crowns |
| | 6.6700/50 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 7.0075/0125 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 455.75/456.25 | U.S. dollars |

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were back from their earlier highs in late afternoon business but remained firmly underpinned here as Wall Street extended last Friday's strong advance with a double-figure advance at opening, dealers said.

The U.S. market's resilience to last week's news of a widening U.S. July trade deficit at a record \$16.47 billion encouraged investors here from the outset.

Dealers said a rise in the dollar Monday helped push worries of higher U.S. interest rates to the background while leading U.K. dollar earners advanced strongly. By 1401 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 13.6 to 2,274.8 after a 2,278.6 high at 1046 GMT.

Dealers said a rise of 0.3 pct in August U.K. producer output prices was within expectations and would seem to support Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson's recent prediction of below four pct U.K. inflation by the end of the year.

The figures come at the beginning of a fairly crowded week for U.K. economic indicators, of which the most closely watched will be the August money supply and bank lending data on Friday.

July brought a massive and unexpected \$4.9 billion surge in bank lending which analysts said was partly due to increased corporate borrowing.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1987

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Fletcher Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Nearly everyone will be overly sensitive today, so be understanding and refrain from criticism, thus avoiding a lot of hurt feelings. The early part of the day is a good time to plan your plans and intentions.

RIES (Mar. 21 to April 19) Get an early start at handling your business activities, since later on you'll need time for home matters. Don't invite any outsiders in, but work on restoring harmony.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) There may be some reckless driving around you today, so be quite cautious when moving about. When handling correspondence, be sure to add a cheerful note.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be sure you don't do anything foolish, especially where finances are concerned. Remember the advice of an adviser, and think over your actions before making decisions.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't be upset if anyone purposely tries to hurt your feelings. Try to be "thick-skinned." This is not a good day to make new plans for the future.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Others may be too busy to listen to your ideas today, so put them in writing yourself. Avoid your plans, and review your plans before presenting them to anyone.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A situation which you may think you should have an opinion about arises, but it's really none of your business, so stay out of it. Study the basics of new projects.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your intuition may be faulty today, so rely more on thought processes. Try not to be indiscreet in any way or you'll pay dearly for it later. Think

more constructively.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't try to rearrange or rearrange your life, or you could easily get into trouble. Watch your credit situation. If your mate is being too demanding, let him go.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't be too forceful in some romantic affair or you could run into troubled waters. Tact is quite important now when dealing with business or money matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If a partner acts too emotionally, don't get upset. Instead, be understanding and the situation will improve immeasurably. Stick to personal pursuits.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18) This is not a good day to take any financial risks, or you could lose a bundle. If you go out with friends, economize and stick with simple but enjoyable pleasures.

PICTURES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) If you go out to a restaurant with a friend this evening, be sure to make it "Dutch treat." Work on perfecting your talents, and be followed by visits to Algeria and Libya.

Remaining OPEC countries will be toured in November, he added.

Dr. Subroto said that over-supply to the world oil market was caused not only by OPEC but by some non-OPEC producers.

He said OPEC members with good contacts to non-OPEC suppliers would lobby them to restrict their production and help keep prices around the \$18 OPEC benchmark.

Sandi Arabia would contact Norway and the Soviet Union, while Algeria would be in touch with the Chinese. Dr. Subroto would contact Malaysia and Brunei.

The minister said he believed oil prices would remain around \$18 until the end of 1987, so long as OPEC could restore discipline among its members.

He said he was optimistic that oil prices would stick around the OPEC benchmark.

The Stars impel: they do not compel. What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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If You Could Be Born Today

He or she will be quite sensitive and should be taught early to be more objective to avoid hurt feelings and the development of a martyr complex. The field of merchandising would be perfect here.

Your son or daughter will enjoy cooking due to a love of eating well. If your progeny is involved in sports, they shouldn't be too rough.

**

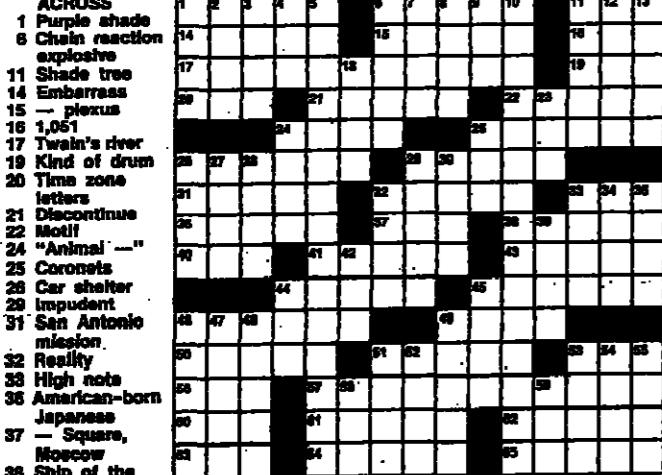
The Stars impel: they do not compel.

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THE Daily Crossword

by Margaret W. Huskey



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|
| 5 | City on Lake Michigan | Michigan | 4 | State | 5 | State | 6 | State | 7 | State | 8 | State | |
| 6 | State | Michigan | 7 | State | 8 | State | 9 | State | 10 | State | 11 | State | |
| 11 | Shade tree | 12 | Shade tree | 13 | Shade tree | 14 | Shade tree | 15 | Shade tree | 16 | Shade tree | 17 | Shade tree |
| 14 | Embarrass | 15 | Embarrass | 16 | Embarrass | 17 | Embarrass | 18 | Embarrass | 19 | Embarrass | 20 | Embarrass |
| 15 | —plexus | 16 | —plexus | 17 | —plexus | 18 | —plexus | 19 | —plexus | 20 | —plexus | 21 | —plexus |
| 16 | 1,061 | 17 | 1,061 | 18 | 1,061 | 19 | 1,061 | 20 | 1,061 | 21 | 1,061 | 22 | 1,061 |
| 17 | —sister's lover | 18 | —sister's lover | 19 | —sister's lover | 20 | —sister's lover | 21 | —sister's lover | 22 | —sister's lover | 23 | —sister's lover |
| 20 | Time zone | 21 | Time zone | 22 | Time zone | 23 | Time zone | 24 | Time zone | 25 | Time zone | 26 | Time zone |
| 21 | Letters | 22 | Letters | 23 | Letters | 24 | Letters | 25 | Letters | 26 | Letters | 27 | Letters |
| 22 | Discontinuous | 23 | Discontinuous | 24 | Discontinuous | 25 | Discontinuous | 26 | Discontinuous | 27 | Discontinuous | 28 | Discontinuous |
| 23 | Motif | 24 | Motif | 25 | Motif | 26 | Motif | 27 | Motif | 28 | Motif | 29 | Motif |
| 24 | — | 25 | — | 26 | — | 27 | — | 28 | — | 29 | — | 30 | — |
| 25 | Arabian | 26 | Arabian | 27 | Arabian | 28 | Arabian | 29 | Arabian | 30 | Arabian | 31 | Arabian |
| 26 | Continent | 27 | Continent | 28 | Continent | 29 | Continent | 30 | Continent | 31 | Continent | 32 | Continent |
| 27 | Car shelter | 28 | Car shelter | 29 | Car shelter | 30 | Car shelter | 31 | Car shelter | 32 | Car shelter | 33 | Car shelter |
| 28 | Impudent | 29 | Impudent | 30 | Impudent | 31 | Impudent | 32 | Impudent | 33 | Impudent | 34 | Impudent |
| 29 | San Antonio | 30 | San Antonio | 31 | San Antonio | 32 | San Antonio | 33 | San Antonio | 34 | San Antonio | 35 | San Antonio |
| 30 | Mission | 31 | Mission | 32 | Mission | 33 | Mission | 34 | Mission | 35 | Mission | 36 | Mission |
| 31 | Reality | 32 | Reality | 33 | Reality | 34 | Reality | 35 | Reality | 36 | Reality | 37 | Reality |
| 32 | High note | 33 | High note | 34 | High note | 35 | High note | 36 | High note | 37 | High note | 38 | High note |
| 33 | American-born | 34 | American-born | 35 | American-born | 36 | American-born | 37 | American-born | 38 | American-born | 39 | American-born |
| 34 | Japanese | 35 | Japanese | 36 | Japanese | 37 | Japanese | 38 | Japanese | 39 | Japanese | 40 | Japanese |
| 35 | Square, | 36 | Square, | 37 | Square, | 38 | Square, | 39 | Square, | 40 | Square, | 41 | Square, |
| 36 | Moscow, | 37 | Moscow, | 38 | Moscow, | 39 | Moscow, | 40 | Moscow, | 41 | Moscow, | 42 | Moscow, |
| 37 | Ship of the | 38 | Ship of the | 39 | Ship of the | 40 | Ship of the | 41 | Ship of the | 42 | Ship of the | 43 | Ship of the |
| 38 | desert | 39 | desert | 40 | desert | 41 | desert | 42 | desert | 43 | desert | 44 | desert |
| 39 | Turn right | 40 | Turn right | 41 | Turn right | 42 | Turn right | 43 | Turn right | 44 | Turn right | 45 | Turn right |
| 40 | Contract | 41 | Contract | 42 | Contract | 43 | Contract | 44 | Contract | 45 | Contract | 46 | Contract |
| 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 |
| 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 |
| 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 |
| 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 |
| 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 |
| 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 |
| 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 |
| 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 |
| 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 |
| 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55</ | | | | | | | | |

Tamil Tigers reportedly kill 66 in east Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's powerful Tamil Tigers separatist group massacred at least 66 people in a weekend onslaught against rival militants in a key eastern region, residents said on Monday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who oppose Sri Lanka's July 29 peace accord, ambushed vehicles of rival Tamil groups on Sunday and swooped on villages to wreck their offices and shoot down occupants in the eastern district of Batticaloa, police and residents said.

A well-known resident who asked not to be identified told Reuters by telephone there were 66 confirmed deaths. Most of the killings occurred in Batticaloa district but some took place further south in Amparai district, he said.

The Tigers also burned down the houses of four people in Batticaloa who supported their opponents.

"People are in a state of shock. They are miserable at what is happening," a well-known Tamil moderate and resident of Batticaloa who asked not to be identified told Reuters.

The Tigers oppose a peace process begun under a July 29 Delhi-Colombo accord, supported by other Tamil militant groups which previously battled

for autonomy.

Under the accord the people of Batticaloa would have the right to reject the unity with the northern Jaffna region which the Tigers control.

Batticaloa City residents said Tigers gunmen set up roadblocks on Sunday before they launched the offensive against rival groups who had set up offices in villages.

"It is still going on in the villages all over the district," a resident said.

"The Tigers are sending armed supporters and pulling people out of offices set up by other groups and they have taken away maybe 30 or 40 people today," he added.

Joseph Kingsley Swamipillai, Batticaloa's Roman Catholic bishop, told Reuters by telephone the confrontation had been building up for several days between the Tigers and three rival Tamil groups known as the Three Stars.

Both the Tigers and the Three Stars had been setting up offices in villages across Batticaloa. "This was a challenge and the area the separatists claim as a Tamil homeland.

Residents said none of the killings took place in Batticaloa City which is 70 per cent Tamil, 25 per cent Muslim and five per cent Sinhalese.

A referendum on whether the east will agree to unite with the north in a Tamil-dominated semi-autonomous administration is scheduled by the end of next year.

"It is a very sad thing," Bishop Swamipillai said of the inter-Tamil "massacres." "There has been no fighting. All the dead were ambushed and eliminated."

24 more Indians die in new floods

NEW DELHI (R) — Swollen rivers in northern India engulfed fresh areas on Sunday, causing 24 more deaths and disrupting relief supplies, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

In Bihar state, 20 people were swept away, bringing the known death toll in this season's floods to 548, and four died in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh. Train services were cut between Delhi and

Tigers have never accepted any competition," he added.

The bishop said nearly 60 members of the three groups, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPLF), the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), had surrendered to police for protection from the Tigers on Sunday.

Police confirmed that surrenders had taken place.

Since the peace pact ended four years of fighting between the Tamil separatists and government forces, the Tigers have clashed with rival groups in several parts of north and eastern Sri Lanka.

"It is still going on in the villages all over the district," a resident said.

"The Tigers are sending armed supporters and pulling people out of offices set up by other groups and they have taken away maybe 30 or 40 people today," he added.

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Chirac hails Caledonia vote

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Jacques Chirac hailed the referendum in New Caledonia as a triumph for Paris and proposed greater regional autonomy for the Pacific island which voted massively to remain part of France.

But opposition Socialists said the poll had changed nothing in New Caledonia, which has seen violent clashes between separatist Kanaks and white settlers.

Two voters in five stayed away from the polls following a boycott call from the separatist Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

Mr. Chirac, speaking in Paris on return from a tour of French possessions in the Caribbean, hailed the 58.99 per cent turnout as a "triumphant participation."

"My government will do all it can so that Caledonians can build together a fraternal society based on tolerance, dialogue, mutual respect for dignity, peace and security," Mr. Chirac said.

He indicated he would seek to channel the separatist aspirations of the Kanak (ethnic Melanesian) community by offering more

Weather aids U.S. firefighters' efforts

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Lower temperatures and higher humidity aided fire crews as they fought to cut firebreaks around forest and brush fires still burning in the western United States.

More than 1,100 square miles (2,860 square kilometres) in western states have gone up in smoke since the end of August.

Firefighters in the state of Oregon got help from helicopters dropping water in 1,000-gallon (3,800-litre) guips.

Progress against the flames was demonstrated by the number of firefighters still working in northern California. U.S. Forest Service spokesman Ray Schaaf said the number was down to about 9,500 from the 13,720 at the peak of the more than 1,200 lightning fires that began breaking out on Aug. 28.

Elsewhere, crews battled a fire in southern California and one in the Catalina Mountains outside Tucson, Arizona.

Humid, foggy weather eased

the battle slightly in Oregon, where firefighters had firebreaks around 25 per cent of the silver complex of fires. Those blazes had charred 29,400 acres (11,900 hectares) about 40 kilometres north of Grants Pass, Forest Service spokesman Chuck Town said.

He said a cold front heading toward southern Oregon was expected to bring clouds and a chance of much-needed showers.

The fire made several strong runs Saturday but fire lines held. In some cases, firefighters had to be moved out of areas of flareups.

In northern California, fears of new fires over the weekend eased Sunday after just one lightning fire was reported by the California Department of Forestry.

"Our resources are stretched. We don't need any more fires for at least a week or two," said Forest Service spokeswoman Jane Labo.

Schaaf said top priorities in northern California were blazes in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest near Redding, about 400 kilometres north east of San Francisco, and the Klamath National Forest to the North of Shasta-Trinity.

"They're dealing with more rugged country than they have in the last few weeks," Schaaf said.

In Shasta-Trinity, the North Fork complex of four fires had charred 6,500 acres (2,600 hectares) in rugged terrain in the middle of the forest's wilderness area, Schaaf said.

"The area is one of concern. They show no containment or that at all," he said.

Four other major fires in the Shasta-Trinity were between 40 per cent and 85 per cent contained Sunday, he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠AQ65 ♠AQJ3 ♠AQJS3 partner opens the bidding with four hearts. What action do you take?

A.—Depending on the quality of partner's hearts, slam could be laydown, depend on a side-cut fitness or have no play at all. The only way you can find out is to raise to five hearts. That asks partner to consider the quality of his suit for slam purposes. The fact that you did not cue-bid or ask for aces guarantees that you have all the side suits under control.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠AKQ72 ♠AKS3 ♠A 43

The bidding has proceeded: West North East South 1 NT Pass 2 0 ?

What action do you take?

A.—Someone is taking advantage of the vulnerability to try something — there is no way that one of the opponents can have an opening bid and the other a jump shift. To alert your partner to what's going on, start with a cue-bid of three diamonds.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold: ♠Q6 ♠AQ53 ♠AQJ2 ♠AQJS3

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 NT Pass 3 0 Pass 3 NT Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Don't give up on slam just because partner has denied a heart fit! If he has a four-card diamond suit, your combined assets should still stretch to slam. Find out by bidding four diamonds. If he can do no better than four no trump, make another move by raising.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠AQ ♠VK4 ♠AQJS3 ♠AQJS2

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

A.—We would give up all thoughts of a minor-suit contract. If you are going to make a name, it will most likely be in no trump. Therefore, we will overcall with one no trump even though our hand is slightly off-shape.

Mr. Chirac's office later said he would arrive in New Caledonia on Thursday for a 24-hour visit.

For the Socialists, Louis Mermaz, former speaker of the National Assembly, said the referendum had solved none of the territory's problems.

Ortega plans talks with opposition

SAN JACINTO, Nicaragua (AP)

— President Daniel Ortega has said his government would begin talks with opponents on Oct. 5, but not with the U.S.-backed rebels known as contras.

On Sunday, Mr. Ortega paraded 16 Central Americans captured while fighting with the contras and relaxed the so-called "law of absence," which allows

Kohl's party loses heavily in two state elections

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) have been forced into further political dependence on the small liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP) after losing heavily in two northern state elections.

The Free Democrats were the big winners in Sunday's elections, more than doubling their share of the vote in the city-state of Bremen, and scoring major gains in the state parliament of Schleswig-Holstein.

On Sunday, Mr. Ortega paraded 16 Central Americans captured while fighting with the contras and relaxed the so-called "law of absence," which allows

the government to seize the property of anyone who has fled the country or lived outside its borders for more than six months.

Mr. Ortega made the gains in state polls this year and is represented in coalitions with the CDU in four other states.

Junior partners in Mr. Kohl's three-party Bonn coalition, the FDP now holds the balance of power in Schleswig-Holstein, to become the biggest single party, were jubilant.

"The CDU have suffered heavy losses, and the SPD made substantial gains. After three decades we are the strongest party in a state whose structure and composition is traditionally conservative," SPD party leader Hans-Joachim Vogel said on television.

Mr. Kohl blamed high abstentions among the large farming community in rural Schleswig-Holstein for the CDU's worst performance there since 1952.

Mr. Kohl also acknowledged that damaging summer rows in his centre-right coalition on nuclear disarmament, human rights in Chile and future policy were a major factor in the Christian Democrats' defeat.

The radical opposition Greens had mixed results. They won 10.2 per cent, nearly double their previous share, in Bremen, but failed in Schleswig-Holstein to clear the five per cent hurdle required for representation.

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Puerto Rican becomes Miss International

TOKYO (AP) — Puerto Rican engineering student Laurie Tamara Simpson was named the 1987 Miss International in competition with contestants from 46 other nations or territories. The 18-year-old Miss Simpson, a student at the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico, told a news conference, "I can't believe it. I am very happy." She received prize money of 2 million yen (\$14,000). Miss Belgium, Muriel Rens, a student of Hoger Handelset Talen Institute at Mechelen, was chosen runner-up. Miss Mexico, Rosa Isela Fuentes, was third. Miss Rens received 1 million yen (\$7,000). Miss Fuentes, who is to enter Mexico Technological University next spring, won \$80,000 yen (\$5,600). The winners were chosen after each of 47 contestants appeared in her nation's traditional costume, a bathing suit and an evening dress before 1,100 spectators at a hall in downtown Tokyo. The contestants chose Miss Colombia, Michelle Betancourt, a student, as Miss Friendship. Miss Hong Kong, Wong Han Lam, was named Miss Photogenic by 70 journalists and photographers on Sept. 4, the first day of the 10-day pageant, which included a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari.

BBC to change Russian programmes

LONDON (AP) — The British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) has said it will broadcast new radio programmes to the Soviet Union now that its signals are no longer being jammed. The BBC now beams 6½ hours a day of Russian-language programmes from London into the Soviet Union, including a five-hour evening transmission. John Tusa, managing director of the state-financed network's External Broadcasting Division, said the Russian service has been jammed for at least half its 41-year history. He said evening news and current affairs programmes had to be repeated several times to give the estimated 15 million listeners a greater chance of hearing them uninterrupted. The Soviet Union stopped jamming the BBC on Jan. 20 and announced in May it had stopped jamming Voice of America (VOA) broadcasts as part of the policy of glasnost or openness. But the Soviets challenged VOA to make better programmes to stay competitive. "Russian audiences are just beginning to find their own media can be full of surprises," Mr. Tusa said. "So with jamming lifted, the onus is on the BBC to come up with fresh and challenging ideas." The changes will include more music, which was particularly difficult to listen to when the signal was interrupted, more English lessons and a 35-minute live daily magazine programme called Argument. Mr. Tusa said the programme will include specially compiled reports from Russian-speaking journalists and experts around the world. A weekly discussion programme aimed at young people begins next month, he said.

Greater efforts urged to combat alcoholism

MOSCOW (R) — Authorities in some regions of the Soviet Union are failing to push the Kremlin's anti-drink drive, the Communist Party daily Pravda has reported. Pravda said that after some success in the campaign to wipe out alcoholism and drunkenness, initiated by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev two years ago, party and state organisations had slackened off and were devoting less attention to it. The article concentrated on the problem in three regions: Karelia, near the border with Finland; Poltava in the Ukraine and the rich agricultural region of Krasnodar in south east Russia on the Black Sea. "Commissions set up to fight alcoholism and drunkenness are theoretically working, but several of them have virtually ceased activity," Pravda said, adding that sales of alcohol in all three regions had risen sharply this year. Illegal distilling was also on the increase, it said, noting that Poltava authorities had destroyed 36,000 illegal home stills over the past two years. Pravda said one of the main causes of the problem was a failure by local authorities to increase the production of non-alcoholic alternatives. Recent press reports have also noted that shops have eased restrictions on alcohol sales in order to boost revenues severely cut by the anti-drink campaign. The campaign has included a number of unpopular measures such as restrictions on the sale of alcohol, cuts in production and radical price increases.

Heroin stolen in U.K.'s biggest robbery

LONDON (R) — Heroin with an estimated street value of £1.5 million (\$2.4 million) was among valuables and cash stolen last July from safe deposit boxes in Britain's biggest robbery, the Mail On Sunday newspaper said. An early edition of the newspaper said that London's police headquarters Scotland Yard would send detectives abroad to search for 2.5 kilos (5.5 lbs) of heroin and other stolen property believed taken in the £30 million (\$48 million) raid at the Knightsbridge Safety Deposit Centre. The Mail On Sunday said police had information that a diamond worth £1 million (\$1.6 million) had been stolen from the centre and smuggled within hours to Israel. A police spokesman questioned about the report said no trace of drugs had been found in any of the rifled boxes in the high-security强室. The Pakistani-born manager of the centre, two Israelis, a Dane, an Italian and five Britons have been charged in connection with the July 12 robbery in one of London's most exclusive areas. The Mail On Sunday said 10 police detectives working in pairs will travel on Monday to the United States, Switzerland, Italy, Luxembourg and Israel to search for the heroin and other stolen property. Police confirmed that investigators would go to Switzerland and Luxembourg. In New York, the Mail On Sunday said, the detectives will examine bank accounts to see if any had large amounts of sterling cash deposited following the raid.

Babies suffer effects of mother's drug use

CHICAGO (AP) — Babies born to mothers who used cocaine during pregnancy may suffer muscle tremors, stiffness and other neurological problems up to four months after birth, a researcher has said. At four months old, most normal infants are exploring their bodies constantly, kicking their legs in the air, arching their backs and even putting their feet in their mouths while lying on their backs, said Jane Schneider. But those born to cocaine-abusing mothers tended to lie flat and move stiffly at that age, said Ms. Schneider, a physical therapist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She presented her findings at the Second Annual National Conference on Drug Use in Pregnancy. "They don't explore because they can't," she said in a telephone interview. "Normal babies are learning about their bodies and where things start and stop — cocaine babies are missing out on something."

Michael Jackson opens solo world tour

TOKYO (R) — Michael Jackson is back with a vengeance. The wavy superstar has sizzled through his first concert appearance since 1984 before an adoring Tokyo crowd of 40,000 in the opening show of his first solo world tour. Jackson, in terrific voice, pranced his way through a non-stop two-hour performance consisting of 16 songs, mostly old favourites and with very few from his new album *Bad*. "It's incredible, it's fabulous. I love him," screamed one young girl as she leapt up